

not enough; you must do what is required. Dr. Patel has done what is required to serve his patients and live a lifetime of dedicated service.

#### INSIGHTS FROM 16 YEARS OF SERVICE IN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, I ran into a former Member of the House and asked him whether he missed it. He answered: "I don't miss the circus. I miss the clowns."

Now that I am in my final days as a Member and have reflected on my 16 years here, I am going to tweak that line. I won't miss everything about the circus, and I will miss many but not all of the clowns. I also now understand why so many people are afraid of clowns.

I definitely will miss speaking on the House floor, so I will use my last appearance in this historic space to talk about what I will and won't miss.

I will miss the feeling that I am part of history, if not always history I would brag about.

I will miss the constant reminder that I have served in the same body as Abraham Lincoln, John Kennedy, John Lewis, and so many other amazing Americans.

I will miss the serious, thoughtful, and often noble discussions about how we can make a positive difference in the lives of so many Americans, even if we rarely make as big a difference as we would want.

I will miss the give-and-take of policy debates, even though I know there was never a chance the debates would change anyone's mind.

On the other hand, I won't miss the reality that most of our rhetorical firepower is preaching to our respective choirs and that too much of what we say comes from the devils and not the angels of our natures.

I won't miss the constant emphasis on raising money and the apparent conviction of some that only gobs of money can persuade enough voters to win elections.

I won't miss the frustrating reality that we rarely move quickly enough to deal with the challenges of a fast-moving world and the fear that if this body doesn't figure out how to work more expeditiously, we will continue to frustrate our citizens.

I will miss many of my colleagues, some of whom are now among my best friends and, yes, even some from across the aisle. They have broadened my perspective and reinforced my belief that, with all of our flaws, we are essentially decent and caring people who try to find better ways forward for our country. I respect them and thank them for their service and friendship. They are definitely not clowns.

I have so many other people to thank as I leave this body. Of course, I must

thank my family for encouraging me to do this work and for excusing me for missing so much of their lives, and in recent years, my grandsons, J.D. and Rory, for being constant reminders that what we do here has implications far beyond the moment.

I will be eternally grateful to the people of Louisville, who have given me the extraordinary honor and responsibility to represent them here.

As a former staffer, I knew that a great staff is essential for success. I have been blessed with phenomenal staff members throughout my eight terms. Thanks to every one of you.

I am also grateful to the staff of the House Budget Committee, which always made me look more competent and knowledgeable as the chairman than I otherwise would have.

Thanks to all the House support staff, who serve quietly and effectively to keep this body functioning.

Thanks to the Capitol Police, who protect and defend us and who showed the world on January 6, 2021 how brave and selfless they are.

Thanks to all of my committee chairs and ranking members whose examples kept me from screwing up any more than I did.

Thanks and praise to Democratic leadership, Speaker PELOSI, STENY HOYER, and JIM CLYBURN, for their friendship, trust, and inspiration.

Finally, I thank the person who has been with me every minute of my 16 years in the House. If Julie Carr is not the best chief of staff ever to serve here, there is no better model to emulate. I often said that if she left me, I would retire the next day. Luckily, she stuck with me, and now she will also leave the House after 25 years of service to me and others.

The citizens of Louisville are, unbeknownst to them, much better off because of her work, and I was a better Member because of her intellect, judgment, dedication, and friendship.

Thank you for everything, Julie.

I will leave the House proud of my work, grateful for the opportunity to serve here, and committed to continue to serve our great country and its people.

For the last time, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman yields back his time, and I thank him for his service.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF HERSCHEL RYAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Louisiana (Ms. LETLOW) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Herschel Ryan, an incredible individual who is not just a close personal friend but a true American hero.

My personal experiences with Herschel Ryan started when I was a small child, but the most poignant moment that I ever had with him was when he

chaperoned on our church mission trip in the seventh grade. It was there that he took a few minutes and shared with me his personal experiences from the Vietnam war.

Mr. Herschel was a talented pilot in the Army, achieving the rank of captain and recognition for his skills in flying helicopter missions.

It was while he was supporting a combat operation on February 9, 1968, that his flight encountered intense enemy fire, and he took a direct hit. His injuries were so severe that he would ultimately lose his left hand and eye, yet he still managed to direct his flight back to safety.

For his gallantry and bravery, he was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Air Medal with 25 oak leaf clusters.

Mr. Speaker, hearing Mr. Herschel's story was formational for me. It was the first time I had ever heard a personal perspective from a veteran. What a gift he gave to me that day.

In this Chamber, we often talk about the need to honor our veterans and the desire to celebrate our heroes. When I think of those who served and sacrificed, I think of Herschel Ryan, a glowing example of some of the finest men and women this country has ever produced.

He fought in a war that was unpopular and came home to a country that did not want to talk about heroism.

□ (1115)

But in spite of all that and the personal challenges he faced; he never lost his joy. I cannot think of a more genuine, warm, and kind man. He has an infectious laugh and spreads happiness to everyone who is around him.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Herschel just turned 80 years old and has retired from a successful career in business. He now travels with his wife, Debbie, and volunteers his free time working with veterans who suffer from PTSD, wanting to continue to serve others.

Mr. Speaker, today, here in the House of Representatives, we pause and pay tribute to a great man and true American hero, Mr. Herschel Ryan.

#### PARENTS MAY MOVE FORWARD BUT NEVER FULLY HEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, on Black Friday, 10 years ago, my son, Jordan, was murdered at a gas station in Jacksonville, Florida, because the man simply didn't like the loud music he and his friends were playing in their car. He called them gangbangers and thugs.

Within 3½ minutes, he pulled out a gun from the glove compartment of his car, took a shooter's stance, and fired 10 rounds at the car, hitting my son, Jordan, three times, killing my only son.

A month later, a man who should never have had access to an assault